

National Sins

(Jeremiah 5:1-5) Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be *any* that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it. (2) And though they say, The Lord liveth; surely they swear falsely. (3) O Lord, *are* not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, *but* they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return. (4) Therefore I said, Surely these *are* poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the Lord, *nor* the judgment of their God. (5) I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the Lord, *and* the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, *and* burst the bonds. Here sins are throughout the land, and the people speak as though they know God, but they violate God's word. God is looking for someone who does right, but does not find one. This is Jerusalem, a city that once knew God, but now they only know how to say the right thing, but their lives are far from God.

Often times the sins of the leaders will spread throughout the land. In the history of the Hebrew people, when a leader was righteous, the people lived righteously. And when there was a wicked ruler, the people lived wickedly. (Proverbs 29:12) *If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.*

The sins of of a ruler not only affect the people but even the land. (Leviticus 18:25) *And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.*

It becomes a mockery to the unsaved when the people of the Lord backslide. (Ezekiel 36:20, GW) *But wherever they went among the nations, they dishonored my holy name. People said about them, 'These are the LORD's people, yet they had to leave his land.'*

The Responsibilities of the Church to the Nation

It does matter to God how the church lives. As sins will destroy a nation, righteousness will bless it and save it. (Proverbs 14:34) *Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*

When people pray and repent, then God will forgive, heal, and bless them. (2 Chronicles 7:14) *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

When a nation prays and repents, God will forgive them and save them. (Jeremiah 18:8) *If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.*

The church needs to pray that the nation will wake up, see their sins and repent. God desires repentance that is why He is near the wicked waiting for them to repent so that He

could forgive them. (Joel 3:12-14) Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. (13) Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness *is* great. (14) Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord *is* near in the valley of decision.

The church is to travail for the nation that it will be delivered from its sins. (Romans 8:21-22) Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

The church is to pray and fast for the nation. (Joel 2:12) Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye *even* to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning.

The preachers are responsible to pray for the people. (Joel 2:17) Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where *is* their God?

The church is responsible to pray the rulers of the land. (1 Timothy 2:1-2) I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; (2) For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

The preachers and the church are responsible to preach against sin. (Jeremiah 23:22) But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

The church is to pray to God to illuminate the minds and hearts of the people to see truth. (2 Corinthians 4:4-6) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (5) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. (6) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The church is a blessing to the people. (Galatians 3:8) And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

The church is a blessing to the nation, therefore let us continue in God's righteous ways. We, as God's people have a responsibility to pray and preach to the nation for its salvation. We, as God's people have a responsibility to live a righteous life, for this will show the world that righteous matters with God. People that are hungry for truth will see the difference and be drawn to the truth.